

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
MAY 1962 EDITION
GSA FPMR (41 CFR) 101-11.6

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO :

CRS

DATE: 24 November 1971

FROM :

[]

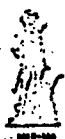
SUBJECT:

Otto Skorzeny

1. I ran into my friend and neighbor, Otto Skorzeny, last Monday, 22 November, and had drinks with him and his wife last night at their apartment on Castellón de la Plana, 19.

2. Skorzeny told me that he had been absent from Madrid for about seven months--from late summer of 1970 until the end of April or beginning of May 1971. He was in Hamburg, Germany during that period undergoing and convalescing from very complicated surgery--an operation which he told me had never been successfully performed before. Apparently, he had felt he had a physical problem for almost two years, but extensive tests had failed to discover any cause for his feelings until the late summer of 1970. At that time, tests made here in Madrid (at Clinica La Paz, I think) showed an obstruction at the base of his skull/top of his spinal column in the nerves. After inquiries in the United States, England and Germany, he went to Hamburg for treatment and underwent surgery there on 12 November 1970. Skorzeny told me the "obstruction" was a tumor (his wife told me privately that it was cancer) in the nerves at the top of his spine. Following the surgery (which, he said, was performed using a microscope to avoid destroying any of the nerves and lasted for six and a half hours), he was almost completely paralyzed for the first two months, stayed in the hospital until April gradually regaining the use of his muscles and then returned to Madrid. (Ilsa, his wife, told me the doctors told him that he should stay for cobalt treatment, but that he refused to do so--and this very much worries her.) He went to his house in Mallorca for the month of August and now, back in Madrid, has a physical therapy specialist who comes to the house every evening for an hour.

3. Compared to the last time I saw him (late June 1970), he is thinner. Last night he also seemed a bit wobbly on his feet at times, but he was drinking his usual Scotch (albeit only one). He was completely lucid (though English has never come easily or quickly to him) and opinionated--as in the past--in his comments (when, in answer to his question about my older son, I told him Robert was studying Political Science at university this year, he told me Engineering



Buy U.S. Savings Bonds Regularly on the Payroll Savings Plan

CS COPY

H/W ATT TO OSMA-27466

EXEM
(2)(A)
(2)(B)
(2)(G)

NS Section
cy
ods/Sources
on Relations

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2001, 2005

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

and History, etc., were sciences, but that Politics was no science; and, furthermore, most of the troublemakers in European universities and in later life were "political scientists.")

4. He is going to his office here (I have the address at home) in the mornings. He is still very much interested in getting a charter airline started in Spain (this was one of the subjects of our last conversation in June '70), would like some German financing and participation in it but thinks this is unlikely at the present time because of the economic situation in Germany at present, and plans to see the head of the Banco Exterior within the next two weeks to investigate possibilities of local financing. Ilse, his wife, is working for a German pharmaceutical company--the headquarters is in Cologne, but she is assigned to their office in Zurich.